

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, I am going defer my time to Senator Chambers, I think, at this point.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Pirsch some questions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Pirsch, will you yield?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Pirsch, what is this...what is the purpose of this amendment?

SENATOR PIRSCH: The purpose of this amendment is to treat Omaha and Douglas County the same as any other county in this state.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you're aware that we have numerous provisions in law where Douglas County, as an entity, and Omaha, as an entity, are treated differently from others in the state. So what other reason than that, I am sure you didn't just look through the statute and find things to say that Omaha and Douglas County should be treated as every other county and city, so what is the reason for this amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, actually, I was looking at other things in the statute, and I was curious as to why there was a prohibition and why they had to have a separate Douglas County and city housing authority and, perhaps, you could answer that, Senator Chambers, because it has been of long-standing, and I see no reason for it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you just decided that you would take this one example, out of all those that you had read about, to bring an amendment to bring Omaha and Douglas County into line with other counties and cities?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Actually, this does not mandate that, but it does allow them the flexibility to do that, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't there some problem that you had with the way the Omaha Housing Authority operated and that's why you